

REMARKS

The present invention relates to an adhesive lint roller construction of the type used to remove detritus from clothing, furniture, floor and other surfaces. The adhesive roller comprises an elongated strip having a backing layer and an adhesive layer overlying one side of the backing layer. The strip has a first and second end and two spaced-apart sides and is wound from one end to its other into a tubular cylindrical roll.

Adhesive rollers of the type described in the preceding paragraph are well known and have been used for decades. The novelty of the instant invention, however, is that the backing layer is constructed of a compressible foam material. The prior art references of record simply do not disclose Applicant's construction for his adhesive roller with a backing layer constructed of a compressible foam material as is positively defined in claim 1 of the instant application.

The Patent Examiner, however, has rejected the previously submitted claims as either anticipated by the Aalbers '822 patent application publication or when Aalbers '822 is combined with the patent application publication to Naghi et al. '915. Applicant, however, respectfully submits that this basis for rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims is simply in error and should be withdrawn.

The Aalbers '822 reference admittedly discloses an adhesive roller of the type used for detritus removal. As such, the Aalbers '822 roller includes a backing layer 14 having one side coated with an adhesive. Aalbers further discloses that the backing layer 14 may be constructed of polypropylene.

The Patent Examiner then concludes that it "is inherent that polypropylene is a foam as shown by the Azom.com description of polypropylene". This assumption, however, is clearly incorrect.

More particularly, there is no dispute that polypropylene could be made into a foam. However, in many, if not most, instances, polypropylene is not a foam at all but rather a non-compressible polymer. Just as importantly, there is absolutely no suggestion in the Aalbers '822 reference that the polypropylene material used as the backing layer 14 is made of a foam. Indeed, the drawing figures of the Aalbers '822 reference quite clearly disclose that it is not a foam at all; see FIG. 7 of Aalbers '822. Consequently, the Patent Examiner's conclusion that the polypropylene backing layer of Aalbers '822 is "inherently" a foam layer is simply incorrect. Since the compressible foam layer is clearly and positively defined in claim 1 of the instant application, the Patent Examiner's rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims as anticipated by Aalbers '822 should be withdrawn.

With respect to the Patent Examiner's rejection of previously submitted claim 1 as unpatentable over Aalbers when combined with Naghi et al., Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of references constitutes nothing other than a piecemeal reconstruction of Applicant's invention based upon hindsight. A rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 cannot be based on hindsight obtained through a reading of Applicant's disclosure.

In particular, the Naghi et al. reference discloses a completely different type of cleaning device having a compressive roller with a plurality of hooks extending outwardly from the roller. The roller, in turn, is rotatably driven by a motor to clean a mouse of the type used with computers. This, of course, is a completely different type of cleaning device than Applicant's device so that there is absolutely no motivation, other than hindsight obtained from Applicant's application, to combine Aalbers with Naghi et al. in the fashion suggested by the Patent Examiner.

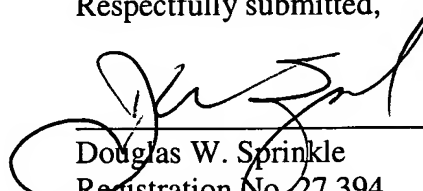
In this regard, Applicant does not claim to be the first to have invented a cleaning device with a compressible layer. Dishwashing sponges have been used for centuries, and such sponges are, by definition, both cleaning devices and compressible. Instead, Applicant merely claims to have invented the adhesive roller with the compressible backing layer that is clearly and positively defined in claim 1 of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentably define Applicant's invention over the prior art references of record and are allowable.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as requested by the Patent Examiner. Additionally, claims 10 and 11 have been canceled thus overcoming the Patent Examiner's objection to the drawing. Lastly, claims 15-17 have also been canceled thus overcoming the Patent Examiner's rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is now in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas W. Sprinkle
Registration No. 27,394
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.
280 N. Old Woodward Ave., Suite 400
Birmingham, MI 48009-5394
(248) 647-6000

Attorney for Applicant

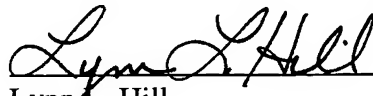
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Lynn L. Hill